



## Proclamation

**WHEREAS,** the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks has been actively supporting the members of our Armed Forces since 1917; and

**WHEREAS,** the Elks built and staffed two field hospitals in France during World War I, as well as building the first Veterans Hospital in Boston and donating it to the federal government; and

**WHEREAS,** their generosity included setting up a revolving fund to help returning G.I.'s receive the proper training to re-enter civilian life with gainful employment; and

**WHEREAS,** this revolving fund was taken over by the federal government eventually to be known as the G.I. Bill guaranteeing all veterans the right to a college education; and

**WHEREAS,** the Elks were equally as active in support of our fighting men and women during World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and other military conflicts; and

**WHEREAS,** in 1946, the Elks made the solemn pledge that "So long as there are veterans, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks will never forget them," and continue to fulfill that pledge.

**NOW, THEREFORE,** I, Kathleen Babineaux Blanco, Governor of the state of Louisiana, do hereby proclaim November 2004, as

### ELKS VETERANS REMEMBRANCE MONTH

in the state of Louisiana.



Attest By  
The Governor

*[Signature of Joseph R. Keith]*  
Secretary of State

*In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set  
my hand officially and caused to be affixed the  
Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the  
Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this  
the 26th day of October  
A.D., 2004.*

*[Signature of Kathleen Babineaux Blanco]*  
Governor of Louisiana